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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The right to development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.49

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Introduction

1. At its 54th meeting, on 28 November 2007, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.49 by a recorded vote of 121 to 52, with 1 abstention. A statement of programme budget implications was read to the Committee prior to the adoption of the draft resolution.

II. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 6 and 39 of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.49, the General Assembly, would:

(a) Endorse the conclusions and recommendations adopted by consensus by the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council at its eighth session and call for their immediate, full and effective implementation by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant actors;

(b) Support the realization of the mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development as renewed for a period of two years by the Human Rights

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Council in its resolution 4/4, with the recognition that the Working Group shall convene annual sessions of five working days and present its reports to the Council;

(c) Support the realization of the mandate of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development, established within the framework of the Working Group on the Right to Development, as renewed for a period of two years by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 4/4, with the further recognition that the task force will convene annual sessions of seven working days and present its reports to the Working Group on the Right to Development;

(d) Stress the importance of endorsement of the road map outlined in paragraphs 52 to 54 of the report of the Working Group on the Right to Development on its eighth session (A/HRC/4/47), which would ensure that the criteria for the periodic evaluation of global partnerships, as identified in Millennium Development Goal 8 prepared by the high-level task force and being progressively developed and refined by the Working Group, are extended to other components of Millennium Development Goal 8 by no later than 2009;

(e) Invite the Chairperson of the Working Group on the Right to Development to present a verbal update to the Assembly at its sixty-third session.

III. Relationship of the draft resolution to the biennial programme plan and the proposed programme of work and programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

3. The activities to be carried out relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights bodies and organs, of programme 19, Human rights; and subprogramme 4, Support services, of programme 24, Management and support services, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.[1] They also fall under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 23. Human rights, and section 28E, Administration, Geneva (A/62/6 (Sects. 2, 23 and Corr.1 and 28E and Corr.1 and 2)), of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

IV. Activities by which the requests would be carried out and additional requirements for the biennium 2008-2009

4. Should draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.49 be adopted by the General Assembly, the implementation of operative paragraphs 1 and 39 would give rise to additional requirements amounting to $47,000 under section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 to provide for:

(a) Travel and daily subsistence allowance for two experts and one staff member to undertake two technical missions of five days each ($36,600);

(b) Travel of the Chairperson of the Working Group to present a verbal update to the Assembly ($10,400).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/61/6/Rev.1).

5. Although provisions have not been included under section 23, it is proposed that the estimated additional requirements of $47,000 be accommodated within the resources proposed under that section for the biennium 2008-2009. No additional appropriations would thus be required as a result of the adoption of operative paragraphs 1 and 39.

6. With respect to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, in his report on revised estimates resulting from resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its fourth session, in 2007 (A/61/530/Add.3), the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that actions carried out under Human Rights Council resolution 4/4 would give rise to additional requirements of $74,300 in respect of the two working days of the high-level task force sessions each year, including daily subsistence allowance of the members and conference services to be provided, under sections 2, 23 and 28E of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 as follows:

	United States dollars
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (conference-servicing costs)	63 300
Section 23, Human rights (daily subsistence allowance)	8 200
Section 28E, Administration, Geneva (conference-servicing costs)	2 800
Total	**74 300**

7. With regard to operative paragraphs 2 and 6, provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for their implementation.

V. Modifications required in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

8. The adoption of the draft resolution would not require modification of the output programmes under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 23, Human rights, and section 28E, Administration, Geneva, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

VI. Potential for absorption

9. In paragraph 14 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/530/Add.3), the General Assembly was requested to note that the additional requirements of $74,300 would be subject to the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 on the contingency fund. In its resolution 61/273, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/61/917), wherein the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 8, recommended that the General Assembly take note of the fact that the implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 4/4 would give rise to additional requirements in the amount of $74,300 under section 2 ($63,300), section 23 ($8,200) and section 28E ($2,800) of the

proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, and that those requirements would be considered when the Assembly took up the proposed programme budget and the related contingency fund.

10. Subsequently, after having reviewed the provisions under sections 2, 23 and 28E, the additional requirements related to the implementation of decisions of the Human Rights Council (see A/62/125) and the statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.84 on institution-building of the Human Rights Committee (A/C.5/62/12), the Secretariat wishes to inform the General Assembly that the total amount of $74,300 required under sections 2, 23 and 28E would be accommodated within the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

VII. Conclusion

11. **The General Assembly may wish to note that the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.49 would not entail additional resources, as previously estimated under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 23, Human rights, and section 28E, Administration, Geneva, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009; hence, there would be no need to resort to use of the contingency fund.**